

2020

## Table of Contents and Editor's Notes

Daniela Singleterry

Pepperdine University, [daniela.singleterry@pepperdine.edu](mailto:daniela.singleterry@pepperdine.edu)

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# PEPPERDINE JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION RESEARCH



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## **Mission Statement**

The *Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research* seeks to pursue truth and academic excellence in the field of communication by recognizing outstanding student scholarship that explores interpersonal, intercultural, organizational, and rhetorical communication. Through rigorous student peer-review, the annual *Journal* strives to contribute to ongoing discussion in communication studies by publishing student papers that investigate a variety of contemporary topics and issues.

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## Introduction

The Pepperdine community has experienced many drastic events over the past two years that have dramatically affected what is considered the “typical” Pepperdine experience. From fires to losing a member of our student body to a mass shooting to COVID-19 orders, Pepperdine has had far too many traumatic events, more than most other universities. Yet, it has strengthened our community in a number of ways. The most recent event Pepperdine has faced is the transition to remote classes due to COVID-19. Like so many other universities and colleges, not only have classes shifted entirely online, but campus life and activity as we know it has come to a screeching halt in order to prioritize the safety and health of all. Although students’ daily life, living situations, post-graduate plans, and summer plans were quickly turned upside down without much explanation or expectation for when normalcy will return, the majority of the community has found ways to come together and thrive in these trying times. As a third-year student deeply immersed in the culture of Pepperdine, I am proud to call myself a part of this community because of the way all have exhibited resilience during these trying times.

Resilience does not take the form of a single action, attitude, or way of thinking. It is found in the way students communicate with one another, in the way faculty and staff have made themselves available to students in these unusual circumstances, and in the way the world and our own local communities around us function in order to survive unprecedented circumstances. In this year’s *Journal*, we invited students to write about the different ways in which they have experienced resilience through communication, rhetoric, language, and the world at large. We are extremely grateful to have the input of students who have witnessed resilience in unexpected ways and places and have been able to articulate their experiences in this year’s edition. Beginning with a student’s reflection on the way she’s seen resiliency exhibited in spite of COVID-19, we hope to take readers on a journey of the different ways that our student contributors have found resilience. This issue offers a personal reflection of a student who has lived through the dramatic events at Pepperdine. The concept of resilience is then examined through two research articles examining content creators’ ability to profit despite challenges they are faced with, both in the music industry and in the less-regulated YouTube industry. Two other authors take a different approach, inspecting the ways resilience plays a role in rhetoric and the way those who have had rhetoric used against them in the past have been resilient. Lastly, this issue finishes with a piece by a student who exhibited resilience firsthand in the face of oppression related to gender roles. Our hope is that through these works, the concept of resilience is broadened and communicated in ways that had never been considered before.

## **From the Editor-in-Chief**

I am so proud to have had the privilege to edit this year's *Journal*. It was an incredible experience to be able to work with so many talented students and faculty. The diversity of this year's submissions in light of the current crisis certainly speaks to the resilience exhibited by the Communication division and its students. We hope that you enjoy reading about the ways in which Communication and Resilience go hand-in-hand in our world through the eyes of students who continuously experience, research, and exhibit the ways that the two intersect under unprecedented and unexpected circumstances. Thank you!

Daniela Singleterry, Editor-in-Chief  
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